Again, the richness and complexity of our minds even
at the moment of birth and their speedy development on
definite lines under the varying circumstances of this life
point to a long mental history through which we must
have passed in the unremembered past. History is not
wanting in cases of precocious development among children.
Mangiamelo, a shepherd, was a calculating automatic machine
when only five years old. Zerab Colburn could solve the
most puzzling mathematical problems when under eight
years of age. Blind Tom, a born slave and a typical Negro,
with a very poor intellect,became the master of music without
ever being taught. Mozart, the great musician, could repeat
a sonata when' he was only four years and wrote an opera
at eight. All such cases cannot, it is urged, be accounted
for by the theory of heredity but only by the doctrine of
previous births.
Again, if man's body is historically linked to, being the
development of, the bodies of lower animals, where is the
unreasonableness of thinking that this soul also has passed
through a similar process of gradual development, having
animated lower organisms in the more

remote periods of its
pro-existence, gaining in intelligence and
moral strength
as it migrated into higher and higher
organisms and at last
attaining humanity both. physically and
spiritually?
According to the cult of the Theosophical
Society, the
round_of births to which the individual self
is subject before
its union with the Supreme Self is thus
described by
Dr. Annie Besant:—

<(. . . . All this evolution, proceeds under the law of causation, each cause working out its due effect. This is the law of Karma, that returns to every man exactly the results of his sowing. Pie sows his Karma in the world of matter, he reaps it partially in the other
two worlds and there assimilates the results of his thinking; then he
returns to earth, the creature of his own making, to work out Karma
belonging to this earth ; so he grows life after life, being "a creature
of reflection"; what he reflects on in this life, he becomes the same